Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A network topology distributed discovery ~~system~~ method, leveraging ~~the~~ functionality of a high-speed communications network, comprising the steps of:

> (i) distributing records of discovered network devices using a plurality of discovery engine instances located on at least one data collection node computer whereby ~~the~~ a resulting distributed record compilation comprises a distributed network topology database; and
>
> (ii) importing the distributed network topology database onto at least one performance monitor server computer so as to enable network management.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ method according to claim 1, further including the step of locating at least one discovery engine instance ~~wherein at least one discovery engine instance is located~~ on the data collection node computers on a ratio of one engine instance to one central processing unit whereby ~~the~~ total number of engine instances is at least two so as to enable parallel processing of the distributed network topology database.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ method according to claim 1, further including the step of launching a vendor specific discovery subroutine ~~wherein a vendor specific discovery subroutine is launched~~ upon detection by the system of a non-MIB II standard device so as to query ~~the~~ a vendor's private MIB using a vendor specific algorithm.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ~~system~~ method according to claim 1, further including the step of connecting at least one performance monitor client computer ~~wherein at least one performance monitor client computer is connected~~ to the network so as to communicate remotely with the performance monitor server computers.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A network topology distributed discovery system, leveraging ~~the~~ functionality of a high-speed communications network, comprising:

(i) at least one data collection node computer connected to the network for discovering network devices using a plurality of discovery engine instances whereby a distributed network topology database is created; and

(ii) at least one performance monitor server computer having imported the distributed network topology database whereby network management is enabled.

Claim 6 (original): The system according to claim 5, wherein at least one discovery engine instance is located on the data collection node computers on a ratio of one engine instance to one central processing unit whereby the total number of engine instances for the system is at least two so as to enable the parallel processing of the network topology database.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The system according to claim 5, wherein a vendor specific discovery subroutine is launched upon detection by the system of a non-MIB II standard device so as to query the a vendor's private MIB using a vendor specific algorithm.

Claim 8 (original): The system according to claim 5, wherein at least one performance monitor client computer is connected to the network so as to communicate remotely with the performance monitor server computers.

Claims 9-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (new): A computer program product for implementing a network topology distributed discovery method, leveraging functionality of a high-speed communications network, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for storing machine-executable instructions for use in the execution in a computer of the distributed discovery method, the method including the steps of:

(i) distributing records of discovered network devices using a plurality of discovery engine instances located on at least one data collection node computer whereby a resulting distributed record compilation comprises a distributed network topology database; and

(ii) importing the distributed network topology database onto at least one performance monitor server computer so as to enable network management.

Claim 14 (new): The product according to claim 13, wherein at least one discovery engine instance is located on the data collection node computers on a ratio of one engine instance to one central processing unit whereby total number of engine instances is at least two so as to enable parallel processing of the network topology database.

Claim 15 (new): The product according to claim 13, wherein a vendor specific discovery subroutine is launched upon detection by the system of a non-MIB II standard device so as to query a vendor's private MIB using a vendor specific algorithm.

Claim 16 (new): The product according to claim 13, wherein at least one performance monitor client computer is connected to the network so as to communicate remotely with the performance monitor server computers.